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Hongkong, January 3d, 1876.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, APRIL 27th, 1876.

This Shanghai Courier informs its readers that a scheme for the establishment of a Mint has already been submitted, privately, to the Authorities at Peking, and urges that the resolution of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce should be adopted upon, as it is likely to receive support. This piece of news is very likely to be correct, for Sir Thomas Wade is beyond doubt, favourable to such a scheme. As we mentioned the other day, he endeavoured so far back as 1861, to impress the importance of this question upon the veteran statesman, Wen Shiao, with, however, very little effect. After the lapse of fifteen years, it is possible he may meet with more success, as the experience gained in that interval, and the somewhat altered conditions, may dispose the Chinese officials to listen more readily to his arguments. Other reasons will, perhaps, also serve to influence them in favour of the scheme, which they can easily see will not be without its pecuniary advantages. Just now they are somewhat short of funds, and would not doubt be glad to welcome a legitimate contribution to the Imperial exchequer. The people of Shanghai should, however, as our contemporary observes, be slow in taking action in the matter. It is always well to strive when the iron is hot. The mercantile communities throughout China, both foreign and native, feel considerable interest in the question, and it is to be hoped that the Chinese Government may be induced to give heed to the advice of the British Minister on this occasion. At all events, the matter is worth an effort, for even if the Peking officials prove unresponsive it would probably not have been altogether thrown away, for they might turn out more tractable at some future time.

Text of the Treaty between Japan and Korea has at length been published, and will be found in another column. The outline of it which has already appeared gave a very fair and tolerably correct idea of the provisions of the Treaty, and there is really but little further information to be gleaned from a perusal of the document itself. It strikes us, however, that the opening of the Korean ports is delayed to a most unreasonable time. Neither of the two new ports, it appears, to be opened within twenty months from the first of February last. Why so long an interval should be allowed to elapse, it is difficult to imagine, but in all probability it was stipulated by the Korean Government, anxious, no doubt, to retain their exclusive views undisturbed up to the latest date possible. A Westerner would have protested strongly against such an utterly unequal for post-ponement of the event, but it was, doubtless, calmly acquiesced in by the Japanese Envoys, who naturally entertain a good deal of fellow feeling with the prostrating Koreans.

Time is never of very serious importance to Oriental nations; they feel little sympathy with the eager, impatient Western, who chafes at obstacles and frets at delay. The main provisions of the Treaty have been commented on before, but the clause relating to extra-territorial jurisdiction has not been referred to. It is worthy of attention, inasmuch as its insertion must be held to prove, beyond all question, that the Japanese Government recognize the justice and even necessity of a provision of this sort in the intercourse between nations of different degrees of civilization. As the Japan Mail points out, if the Japanese, "neighbours of the Koreans, kinmen of race, worshippers at the same shrines, and deriving their laws and literature from the same source, think it necessary to insert such a clause in their treaty, how much more necessary is it for Western men, whose origin, faith, laws, customs, habits of thought and feeling differ so widely from theirs to do so?" This question is not one of sentiment and national pride alone. It is one of reason, forbearance, and good sense. The Japanese have lately been agitating loudly for the excision of this clause from the foreign treaties with them, and have for years considered it a grievance. Their pride and vanity are aroused against it, because they regard it as a proof that they are not ranked on an equality with the nations of the West, and hence the opposition they exhibit towards it. But though they smart under the galling sense of implied inferiority it begets in their minds, they have not hesitated to insist upon its forming one of the articles in their treaty with Korea. Of course they did quite right, and no one will dream of blaming them for taking so obviously prudent a precaution, but they must see, on consideration, that by adopting such a course they have quickly endorsed the policy of Western Powers in adhering to it in their treaties. The day will come when the clause can be dispensed with by foreigners in Japan, and that period will not, we are sure, be put off longer than can be helped. At present, however, there are excellent reasons for its retention, and the Japanese must be content to wait for its abolition. They are daily making fresh advances in the path of progress, and may console themselves with the knowledge that they will in due time attain to maturity as a civilized nation.

An inquiry into the loss of the O.R.B. Company's steamer Ocean off Galle has resulted in the discovery of Captain Bewley's certificate for six months.

In noticing the fact that 600 nuns were sent from Japan to the United States in Mission, the Japan Mail says—"It is very evident that the Government is not disposed to place much reliance on the promise of the Ministry of Education to supply carriages for the party and very rarely too, the building of temporary barracks at Bhamo does not count much. There is little doubt that the escort question is very unpopular at Mandalay, and everything about the proposed expedition will do to delay the passage of the troops until the season is too far advanced for them to proceed until the month of the rainy season, which the point. We believe that telegrams from the British Minister in Japan and local Governments on this subject."

We hear (observes the Shanghai Courier) with interest, but unobscured by surprise, that the Government is making every effort to send to the distant provinces of China. Not only, too, is the religion itself spreading there, but the Chinese followers of the Prophet appear ripe for instruction, and it is feared that the Government will have to contend with a new and powerful force.

Kansu, Shensi, and Kweichow are long been a condition of open revolt. It is of course possible, too, that the native Muslims may be supported by the Government, and that the war will be a long and bloody one. It is reported that the Government is in severe straits and fears still further embarrassments unless it receives very considerable reinforcements without delay. This is a serious situation, and it is to be hoped that the Government will be able to meet it with success.

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